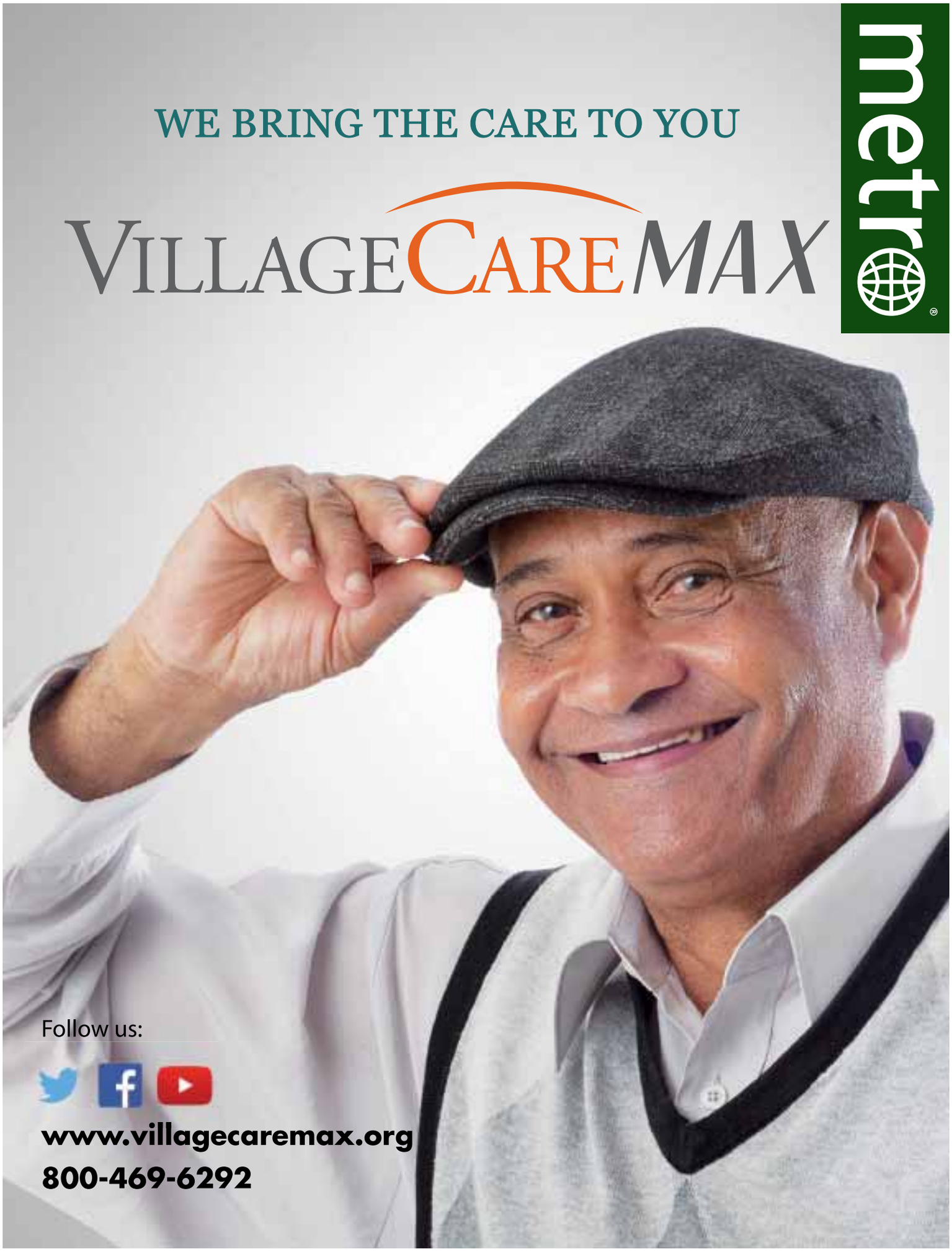
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HOLIDAY DRINKING SEASON

How to manage your hangovers. 24

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MAKING METERS APP-SOLETE

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1. When is the Second Avenue subway opening, according to Gov. Andrew Cuomo?

2.Slumping Kristaps Porzingis has scored how many points in his last two combined games?

3. What is the best way to cure a hangover?

3 things you need to know

TRUCK PLOWS INTO CROWD AT BERLIN MARKET, NINE DEAD

A truck plowed into a crowded Christmas market in the German capital Berlin on Monday evening, killing nine people and injuring up to 50 others. German media, citing police at the scene, said first indications pointed to an attack on the market, situated at the foot of the ruined Kaiser Wilhelm memorial church, which was kept as a bombed-out ruin after World War II. The attack was claimed by Islamic State. The truck careered into the Berlin market at what would have been one of the most crowded times for the Christmas market, when adults and children would be gathering in the traditional cluster of wooden huts that sell food and Christmas goods. Berlin police said nine people were killed. REUTERS

NC SIGNALS REVERSAL ON TRANSGENDER BATHROOM LAW

2 North Carolina's governor-elect said a deal could soon bring the repeal of a state law limiting bathroom access for transgender people, following nine months of economic boycotts and protests over legislation protested as discriminatory. Under the law adopted in March, North Carolina was the first U.S. state to ban transgender people from using government-run restrooms that match their gender identity. The law, which catapulted the state to the forefront of U.S. culture wars over LGBTights, has been blamed for hundreds of millions of dollars in economic losses and the relocation of major sporting events. In a surprise development, incoming Gov. Roy Cooper, a Democrat, said on Monday that Republican legislative leaders agreed to call a special session as soon as Tuesday to repeal the law, known as House Bill (H.B.) 2. REUTERS

US SEES CHINA RETURNING DRONE AS EARLY AS TUESDAY

3 The U.S. expects China to soon return an underwater U.S. drone after a Chinese naval vessel seized it last week, with one U.S. official telling Reuters the exchange could happen as early as Tuesday at an agreed spot in the South China Sea. China's seizure of the unmanned underwater vehicle (UUV) triggered a diplomatic protest and speculation about whether U.S. President-elect Donald Trump will point to the incident as proof of the need to take a tougher line with Beijing. A Chinese warship took the drone, which the Pentagon says uses unclassified, commercially available technology to collect oceanographic data, on Thursday about 50 nautical miles northwest of Subic Bay in the Philippines. REUTERS

CORRECTION

In a story published Monday about Harvest Collegiate, Metro New York incorrectly identified the teacher in the page 2 photo. The teacher shown in the photo is Liana Donahue, who teaches a class in "Studio Art" and not Kiran Chauduri. Metro regrets the error.

ALL IMAGES COURTESY NYC DOT

New DOT parking app lets you feed the meter by phone

Parking in New York City will get a little more merciful.

AMANDA MIKELBERG
@MetroNewYork
amanda.mikelberg@metro.us

Leaving a burger half-eaten and making a mad dash to the parking meter may soon be a hassle of the past.

The new ParkNYC app allows users to pay for parking with their smartphones, eliminating the need to feed parking meters with cash or credit/debit cards.

"New York finally joins the ranks of a lot of other cities," DOT Commissioner Polly Trottenberg told Metro.

The company, Parkmobile, has systems running in more than 200 cities, including Hoboken, Newark, Philadelphia and Boston, the commissioner said.

This month ParkNYC zone numbers will be rolled out as decals and signs between 14th Street and 59th Street, from the East River to the Hudson River. By the summer, all 85,000 metered parking spots in the city will be payable with ParkNYC.

"We're doing it differently in New York, with a unique spin," Trottenberg said. "We're not charging the transaction fee, and will integrate it with the NYPD."

Traffic agents will be able to scan the registration barcode with their handheld devices to check if the parking is valid or expired.

Trottenberg added that the five-year contract with Parkmobile comes at no cost to the city, as they're waiving the transaction fee. Users also save money because they'll only have to deal with a one-time transaction fee on their card rather than one for each time they park.

"New York finally joins the ranks of a lot of other cities."

Polly Trottenberg

Mayor Bill de Blasio beamed praise for the program.

"With no paper receipt and the ability to quickly get on your way, this new pay-by-cell tool fulfills our commitment — made in this year's State of the City address — that we would help save New Yorkers the most precious of resources: their time," he said in a statement.

Trottenberg, who unveiled the system in Kips Bay on Monday, said she doesn't expect the system to affect parking revenue, which currently amounts to about $200 million, but it will most certainly save drivers some money and aggravation.

After downloading the app you then register your account (or sign up at Parknyc.org), provide your license plate number, and load your digital wallet in increments as low as $25, similar to like EZ-Pass. After parking, you enter the zone number for the block (printed on a sign) and add your length of time. If your time is running out and the block's time limit was not reached, you can extend your parking without going back to the street.

"We're doing it as aggressively as we can," Trottenberg said.

The new app is optional. The regular Muni-Meters will continue to operate as usual, accepting coins and credit/debit cards in exchange for a piece of paper to put on your dashboard.

Cuomo: Second Ave. subway to open New Year's Day

The planned opening of Manhattan's newest line comes 98 years after it was proposed.

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The 72nd Street Second Avenue station on Dec. 9. GOV. CUOMO'S OFFICE

It's a project that's nearly a century in the making, but by the end of the year, the Second Avenue subway will finally open to riders.

Gov. Andrew Cuomo, who has been putting pressure on the MTA to complete the project by its Dec. 31 deadline, told NBC New York that service will begin on New Year's Day. An inaugural ride will run the night before.

Originally proposed in 1919, multiple plans for the project on Manhattan's East Side have been delayed for lack of funding until 2007, when construction on the line began. Now, $4.5 billion later, the first phase is almost complete, connecting three new Q line stations: 72nd, 86th and 96th streets.

> *"The deadline was set for Dec. 31, and we must meet it."*
>
> Gov. Andrew Cuomo

A second phase will reach up to 125th Street.

Cuomo has pressed the MTA to complete the project on schedule — though it's already three years late, a New York Post columnist pointed out — and told the New York Daily News it's more than just ceremonial.

"Opening the Second Avenue subway on time is about meeting deadlines, proving government competency, not backing down from difficult challenges and actually getting the job done for New Yorkers," Cuomo said. "The deadline was set for Dec. 31, and we must meet it."

Victorian taxidermist Walter Potter's circa 1890s tableau Kitten's Wedding
MORBID ANATOMY MUSEUM/FACEBOOK

Morbid Anatomy Museum dies

Gowanus' Morbid Anatomy Museum has shut its doors after an unsuccessful crowdfunding campaign.

The gallery of artifacts related to death, taxidermied creatures and preserved specimens was trying to raise $75,000 to stay open through 2017, but has apparently failed to raise the cash fast enough.

As of Monday morning, a message on the museum's website read, "The Morbid Anatomy Museum is now permanently closed. Thanks to everyone for two and a half wonderful years!"

A Facebook post by Tonya Hurle, whom the Daily News identified as a board member, read, "A heartfelt thank you to everyone who has supported us in this endeavor. We are extremely proud of the groundbreaking work we've done and the incredible community we were so privileged to serve."

The museum's annual holiday Krampus party, hosted by Ghoul a Go Go, featuring a costume contest, photo booth, sing along and piñata on Dec. 16 appeared to have been its last hurrah.

AMANDA MIKELBERG

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NYC set to light world's largest menorah

The Manhattan menorah lighting tradition, called a "symbol of religious freedom" by Chabad, has been taking place for 39 years.

KIMBERLY AQUILINA
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"The menorah stands as a symbol delivering a timely and poignant message of freedom, strength and inspiration."
Rabbi Shmuel Butman

Hanukkah begins on Saturday. PIXABAY

Hanukkah starts on Saturday evening this year and New York will celebrate by lighting the world's largest menorah in Midtown Manhattan.

The Lubavitch Youth Organization will light the 36-feet-tall menorah at 5th Avenue and 59th Street at 8 p.m. and the celebration will continue for eight nights, according to Chabad.

Every night, the event will feature hot latkes, Hanukkah donuts, music, draidels and Hanukkah gifts for children, Chabad added.

"The menorah stands as a symbol delivering a timely and poignant message of freedom, strength and inspiration," said Rabbi Shmuel Butman, Lubavitch Youth Organization director, in a statement. "It serves as a symbol of NYC's dedication to preserve and encourages all citizens to practice their faith, worshiping God freely, openly and with pride."

The menorah lighting will take place at 5:30 p.m. the following nights, except Dec. 30, when the lighting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and Dec. 31 when the lighting will again take place at 8:30 p.m.

At 5 p.m. on Monday, more than 300 menorah-topped vehicles, including 40 "mitzvah tanks," will leave Lubavitch World Headquarters in Brooklyn and at about 6:30 p.m. The Grand Menorah Parade will pass by the "world's largest menorah."

The Menorah Lighting

The menorah lighting will take place at 5:30 p.m. the following nights, except Dec. 30, when the lighting is scheduled for 3:30 p.m. and Dec. 31 when the lighting will again take place at 8:30 p.m.

The menorah lighting tradition, started by the Rebbe, Rabbi Menachem M. Schneerson, has been taking place for 39 years, Chabad said.

In 2006, Guinness World certified the 28-feet wide, 4,000-pound menorah, designed by Israeli sculptor Yaacov Agam, as the largest menorah in the world.

A taller Brooklyn menorah, erected by Chabad of Park Slope Rabbi Shimon Hecht, tried to claim the "largest" title, but a Chabad-Lubavitch rabbinical court ruled that Butman's menorah claimed the title first, the Jewish Week reported.

"Every Hanukkah operation is meant for publicizing the miracle in a way that sanctifies God's name and the name of Chabad, and not, God forbid, the opposite," the judges wrote in the Dec. 1 decision, according to the Jewish Week. "So when another organization in the same city uses the same descriptor without permission from the plaintiff, it could cause the opposite of respect to Lubavitch."

Both menorahs have a 32-feet tall base, which is the maximum allowed by Jewish law. The Brooklyn menorah's shamash, the central candle, extends 4.5 feet — half-a-foot higher than Butman's Manhattan shamash.

NYC welcomes record number of tourists

New York City seems to follow the expression, "Go big or go home." And that's exactly what the city will do when it reaches a record-breaking 60.3 million visitors by the end of the year.

Based on seven consecutive years of travel and tourism data, New York will surpass the forecasted 59.7 million visitors by 600,000, according to an announcement by Mayor Bill de Blasio, Council Speaker Melissa Mark-Viverito and NYC & Company, the official destination marketing organization for the city.

That means 1.8 million more people visited the Big Apple this year than in 2015.

It also means jobs.

New York's Times Square is a mecca of tourism. GETTY IMAGES

About 375,000 travel and tourism jobs exist in New York, which is a bump of 15,000 more jobs from last year, according to the data.

"More tourism means we have more people investing in New York City and are able to create more sustainable jobs for more people," de Blasio said.

"We are the safest, most culturally rich, most exciting city in the country. Every time visitors come, they can experience something new," Deputy Mayor Alicia Glen added. "We are focused on making sure the benefits of tourism stretch into every borough and every community."

To boost winter tourism, NYC & Company unveiled "Nonstop NYC," a program comprised of NYC Restaurant Week (Jan. 23-Feb.10), NYC Broadway Week (Jan. 17-Feb. 5), NYC Off-Broadway Week (Feb. 27-Mar. 12) and a new NYC Attractions Week (Jan. 17-Feb. 5).

In the spirit of going bigger, NYC & Company forecasts approximately 61.8 million visitors in 2017 — including 48.7 million travelers from within the United States and 13.1 million international visitors.

KIMBERLY M. AQUILINA

BRIEF

Homeless man throws hot coffee at Muslim woman in Dunkin' Donuts: NYPD

A homeless man in Midtown was charged with a hate crime Sunday after allegedly throwing hot coffee at a Muslim woman and calling her a terrorist.

Nathan Gray, 34, threatened to kill the 21-year-old victim and said he "hated Muslims," the New York Daily News reported. Police charged him with assault as a hate crime.

Gray allegedly went into a Midtown Dunkin' Donuts to purchase a coffee, but grew hostile toward a group of Muslim women sitting at one of the tables.

A Dunkin' Donuts employee said Gray sat near the women after buying his coffee, and began calling the them terrorists, according to the Daily News.

The employee said the women tried to ignore Gray at first.

"One woman called him 'stupid.' So he threw his hot coffee in her face," the employee told the Daily News. "It was hot, hot coffee. She could have been burned! Then he swung his bag at her and it hit her in the face."

When the woman tried to escape, Gray allegedly put her in a headlock.

The victim refused medical treatment at the scene.

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State Sen. Avella announces mayoral run

"It is time to put people and neighborhoods first," State Sen. Tony Avella said.

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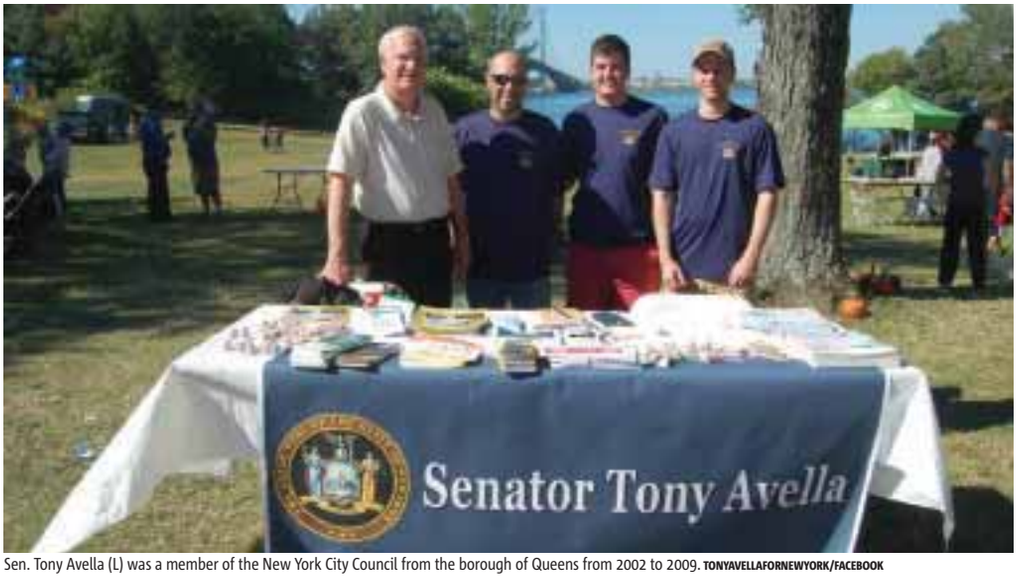

Sen. Tony Avella (L) was a member of the New York City Council from the borough of Queens from 2002 to 2009. TONYAVELLAFORNEWYORK/FACEBOOK

Pointing to New York City's failure to resolve a chronic problem of homelessness, state Sen. Tony Avella announced his intention to run against Mayor Bill de Blasio in the 2017 primaries.

The Queens Democrat, who unsuccessfully ran for mayor in 2009, made the announcement on Sunday in front of a Maspeth Holiday Inn, the controversial site of a planned homeless shelter, which Avella opposes.

Meanwhile, seven city councilmen pledged their support for the incumbent.

Avella preceded his bid with a list of things "it is time" for, such as a small business survival act, incentives to bring manufacturing jobs to the city and making New York a more affordable place to live.

Avella expressed support for free tuition at CUNY for city residents and a 2-percent property tax cap, which is opposed by de Blasio, who has not raised property taxes.

He spoke against the mayor's "crazed" proposals for bike lanes and "the de Blasio administration's narrow-minded anti-motorist policies." He called the Queens-Brooklyn waterfront trolley a "billion-dollar boondoggle."

"And I might add: It's called a bus. Why don't we put a bus there?" he said.

Avella is a member of the Independent Democratic Council, a group of rogue politicians who align with Republicans in the state senate.

City Council members said the de Blasio era has seen "progress."

"What we should expect from our elected officials isn't perfection," Councilmen Ritchie Torres, D-Bronx, said, the New York Daily News reported. "What we should expect is progress, and under the leadership of Mayor de Blasio we have seen progress."

"Every child who's 4 or 5 years old has access to universal pre-K as a result of the leadership of Mayor de Blasio. That's progress," Torres added.

Democrats Ydanis Rodriguez, Margaret Chin and Helen Rosenthal of Manhattan, Brad Lander and Steve Levin of Brooklyn and Donovan Richards of Queens also endorsed de Blasio.

"Under Mayor de Blasio, crime just hit another all-time low, jobs are at record highs, the city is building and preserving affordable housing at a record pace, while graduation rates and test scores continue to improve," a spokesman for de Blasio's campaign told the New York Daily News. "We are happy to match that record against anyone."

Berlin attack prompts NYPD high-profile at Christmas markets

Christmas market at Columbus Circle. CHARLEYLHASA/FLICKR

While strolling around Christmas markets in New York City, you might notice a jarring sight: NYPD officers with assault rifles.

Following an attack on a Christmas market in Berlin on Monday, the NYPD is assigning heavily armed Critical Response Command officers to high-profile markets, including Columbus Circle, Union Square and Bryant Park.

"The NYPD is monitoring the events in Germany and around the world today," the NYPD said in a statement. "The Department has moved highly trained teams, including the Critical Response Command, to high-profile locations around New York City. In the coming days, we will look to learn more about what occurred to inform the NYPD's operations, deployments, and training of officers."

The terror organization ISIS claimed responsibility for the truck crash in Berlin, The Washington Times reported.

There have been no threats against the holiday marketplaces in New York, ABC7 reported; the extra protection is precautionary.

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US charges Platinum Partners executives with $1 billion fraud

Founded in 2003, Platinum until this year had more than $1.7 billion under management, with more than 600 investors, authorities said.

Top executives of New York-based hedge fund manager Platinum Partners were arrested on Monday and charged with running a $1 billion fraud that federal prosecutors said became "like a Ponzi scheme" as its largest investments lost much of their value.

Led by Mark Nordlicht, Platinum was known for years for producing exceptionally high returns — about 17 percent annually in its largest fund — by taking an unusually aggressive approach to investing and fund management, as detailed by a Reuters Special Report in April.

Nordlicht, Platinum's founding partner and chief investment officer, was arrested at his home in New Rochelle, New York. Federal prosecutors accused him and six others of participating in a pair of schemes to defraud investors.

U.S. Eastern District Attorney Robert Capers GETTY IMAGES

"The charges ... highlight the brazenness and the breadth of the defendants' lies and deceit," Brooklyn U.S. Attorney Robert Capers told reporters.

Capers added that the case was one of the largest and "most brazen" investment frauds ever and Platinum was ultimately exposed to have "no more value than a tarnished piece of cheap metal."

The U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission announced parallel charges Monday against the same executives and two Platinum entities for similar civil fraud charges.

A 48-page criminal indictment said since 2012, Nordlicht and four other defendants defrauded investors by overvaluing illiquid assets held by its flagship Platinum Partners Value Arbitrage funds, mostly troubled energy-related investments.

This caused a "severe liquidity crisis" that Platinum at first tried to remedy through high-interest loans between its funds before selectively paying some investors ahead of others, the indictment said.

"So to some extent, there is a Ponzi-esque aspect to this scheme," Capers said. REUTERS

Obama shortens prison sentences for 153 people, pardons 78 others

President Barack Obama shortened the prison sentences for 153 convicts, mainly low-level drug offenders, and pardoned 78 others, the White House said on Monday.

Obama has commuted the sentences of 1,176 federal prisoners, the White House said, as part of a push to reduce the number of people serving long sentences for non-violent drug offenses.

In 2014, Obama announced he would use his clemency powers to reduce sentences he saw as overly harsh. That came after criminal justice bills aimed at non-violent drug offenders stalled in Congress.

The White House said Monday's commutations and pardons were the most acts of clemency in a single day by any U.S. president.

In addition to commuting sentences, Obama has pardoned 148 people in total. White House Counsel Neil Eggleston said they were people who led "productive and law-abiding" lives and contributed to their communities after being convicted.

Eggleston said in a blog post released by the White House that he expected Obama would issue more commutations and pardons before leaving office in January, but he said only Congress could make broader changes to the criminal justice system. REUTERS

President Barack Obama GETTY IMAGES

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Russian ambassador to Turkey shot dead in Ankara art gallery

The attacker was smartly dressed in black suit and tie and stood, alone, behind the ambassador as he made a speech at the art exhibition.

The Russian ambassador to Turkey was shot in the back and killed as he gave a speech at an Ankara art gallery on Monday by an off-duty police officer who shouted "Don't forget Aleppo" and "Allahu Akbar" as he opened fire.

The Russian foreign ministry confirmed the death of envoy Andrei Karlov, calling it a "terrorist act." Relations between Moscow and Ankara have long been strained over the conflict in Syria, with the two support opposing sides in the war.

Russia is an ally of Syrian President Bashar al-Assad and its airstrikes helped Syrian forces end rebel resistance last week in the northern city of Aleppo. Turkey, which seeks Assad's ouster, has been repairing ties with Moscow after shooting down a Russian warplane over Syria last year.

The Ankara mayor said on Twitter the gunman as a 22-year-old police officer. Two security sources told Reuters he was not on duty at the time.

"He took out his gun and shot the ambassador from behind. We saw him lying on the floor and then we ran out," said the witness, who asked not to be identified. People took refuge in adjoining rooms as the shooting continued.

A video showed the attacker shouting: "Don't forget Aleppo, don't forget Syria!" and "Allahu Akbar [God is Greatest]!" as screams rang out. He paced about and shouted as he held the gun in one hand and waved the other in the air.

A gunman crying "Aleppo" and "revenge" shot Andrey Karlov while he was visiting an art exhibition in Ankara, Turkey, on Monday. GETTY IMAGES

A Reuters cameraman at the scene said gunfire rang out for some time after the attack. Turkey's Anadolu news agency said the gunman had been "neutralized," apparently killed.

Another photograph showed four people the ambassador lying on the floor.

"We regard this as a terrorist act," said Russian Foreign Ministry spokeswoman Maria Zakharova. "Terrorism will not win and we will fight against it decisively."

It was not clear whether the gunman was a lone operator, driven perhaps by popular discontent over Russian action in Syria or affiliated to a group like Islamic State, which has carried out a string of bomb attacks in Turkey in the last year.

Since a failed coup in July, President Tayyip Erdogan has been purging the police of supporters of an exiled cleric and former ally, Fethullah Gulen, whom he characterizes as the chief terrorist threat to Turkey. REUTERS

BRIEF

UN chief fears genocide about to start in South Sudan

United Nations Secretary-General Ban Ki-moon said on Monday he feared genocide was about to start in South Sudan unless immediate action is taken, renewing his plea for the Security Council to impose an arms embargo on the world's newest country.

"If we fail to act, South Sudan will be on a trajectory towards mass atrocities," Ban told the 15-member Security Council. "The Security Council must take steps to stem the flow of arms to South Sudan."

Noting that his special adviser on the prevention of genocide, Adama Dieng, has described genocide as a process, Ban said: "I am afraid that process is about to begin unless immediate action is taken."

Political rivalry between South Sudan President Salva Kiir, an ethnic Dinka, and his former deputy Riek Machar, a Nuer, led to civil war in 2013 that has often followed ethnic lines. The pair signed a shaky peace deal last year, but fighting has continued. Machar fled in July and is now in South Africa.

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Trump wins Electoral College vote; some electors break ranks

Republican Donald Trump prevailed in U.S. Electoral College voting on Monday to officially win election as the next president, easily dashing long-shot hopes by a small movement of detractors to block him from gaining the White House.

Trump garnered more than the 270 electoral votes required to win, even as at least half a dozen U.S. electors broke with tradition to vote against their own state's directives, the largest number of "faithless electors" seen in more than a century.

President-elect Donald Trump
GETTY IMAGES

A core of Democratic activists around the country had hoped to convince Republicans to cross lines and vote for Democratic nominee Hillary Clinton, who won the nationwide popular vote on Nov. 8.

In the end, however, more Democrats than Republicans split with their party. Four Democratic electors voted for someone other than Clinton, while two Republicans turned their backs on Trump.

Bret Chiafalo, 38, of Everett, Washington, was one of three electors from his state to vote for Colin Powell, a former Republican secretary of state, rather than Clinton, saying he believed Powell was better suited for the job than Trump.

The founding fathers "said the electoral college was not to elect a demagogue, was not to elect someone influenced by foreign powers, was not to elect someone who is unfit for office. Trump fails on all three counts, unlike any candidate we've ever seen in American history," Chiafalo said in a interview.
REUTERS

Businessman Vincent Viola arrives at Trump Tower for meetings with President-elect Donald Trump on December 16, 2016 in New York. GETTY IMAGES

Trump nominates trading firm founder Viola as Army secretary

Viola is a West Point graduate who founded the highly profitable high-frequency trading firm Virtu Financial Inc in 2008.

President-elect Donald Trump will nominate Vincent Viola, an Army veteran and founder of a high-speed trading firm, to be secretary of the Army, adding another figure from the business world without government experience to his Cabinet.

Viola is a former chairman of the New York Mercantile Exchange, where he began his financial services career, and is a leader in electronic trading. Along with Virtu CEO Douglas Cifu, he bought the Florida Panthers of the National Hockey League in 2013.

In the Army, Viola trained as an Airborne Ranger infantry officer and served in the 101st Airborne Division, the transition team said.

"Whether it is his distinguished military service or highly impressive track record in the world of business, Vinnie has proved throughout his life that he knows how to be a leader and deliver major results in the face of any challenge," Trump was quoted as saying in a transition team statement.

After the Sept. 11, 2001, al Qaeda attacks on New York and Washington, Viola helped found the Combating Terrorism Center at the U.S. Military Academy at West Point.

"A primary focus of my leadership will be ensuring that America's soldiers have the ways and means to fight and win across the full spectrum of conflict, Viola said in the statement.

As Army secretary, Viola would oversee 473,000 active-duty soldiers.

Trump met with Viola on Friday as the Republican president-elect considered candidates for top posts in his administration, which begins on Jan. 20. Cabinet positions yet to be filled include secretaries of agriculture and veterans affairs and the U.S. trade representative.

Viola, 60, whose net worth is $1.8 billion according to Forbes magazine, is the latest wealthy financier or businessman tapped to join Trump's administration.

Those nominees, with little or no experience in government, include Exxon Mobil CEO Rex Tillerson for secretary of state, Goldman Sachs chief operating officer Gary Cohn for director of the National Economic Council, private equity firm owner Wilbur Ross as commerce secretary and Andrew Pudzer, CKE Restaurants Inc chief executive as labor secretary. REUTERS

Panel rules California judge in Stanford swimmer case not biased

The California judge who drew worldwide condemnation for giving a six-month sentence to a Stanford athlete convicted of sexual assault was not biased and acted in accordance with a probation report, the state's judicial oversight commission said Monday.

Brock Turner SANTA CLARA COUNTY OFFICE

The Commission on Judicial Performance received thousands of complaints against Judge Aaron Persky after his June 2016 sentence of former Stanford swimmer Brock Turner to six months in jail plus three years probation for assaulting an unconscious woman behind a dumpster outside a college party, the panel's chief counsel said.

Turner was convicted of three felony charges in the case — assault with intent to commit rape, sexual penetration of an intoxicated person with a foreign object (digital penetration) and sexual penetration of an unconscious person.

"There is not clear and convincing evidence of bias, abuse of authority, or other basis to conclude that Judge Persky engaged in judicial misconduct warranting discipline," commission director and chief counsel Victoria B. Henley wrote in the panel's report, released Monday.

Turner, 20 at the time of his sentencing, faced up to 14 years in prison for the three convictions. However, the penal code at that time allowed a defendant to be sentenced to probation. Prosecutors had sought six years in prison for Turner, but probation officials recommended a "moderate" county jail sentence followed by three years of probation and sex offender treatment, the report showed.

Persky's sentence followed that recommendation, the commission concluded.

In a detailed report that examined each of the major criticisms of Persky's sentence, the commission repeatedly cleared him of misconduct.

The complaints accused Persky of abusing his authority, displaying bias and imposing an unlawful sentence, the report said. The types of bias alleged included gender bias against the female victim, racial/socioeconomic bias because a non-white defendant would have received a harsher sentence and pro-Stanford bias stemming from the judge's own years as a student and athlete at the elite university near San Francisco.

Stanford law professor Michele Dauber, who has led opposition to the sentence and has begun a campaign to remove Persky from office, criticized the ruling. REUTERS

"We strongly disagree with the commission's conclusion on judicial bias and we believe that Judge Persky has in fact demonstrated a clear pattern of bias in cases of sex crimes and violence against women."
Dauber, in an email

BRIEF

Settlements reached in post-Katrina killings in New Orleans

Settlements have been reached in civil rights lawsuits brought against actions by New Orleans police officers following Hurricane Katrina in 2005.

Local TV station WDSU said the settlements were with the families of Ronald Madison, Raymond Robair and Henry Glover in three separate killings in the aftermath of the hurricane. The families have been in litigation for years with the city, it said.

Madison was fatally shot by police on the city's Danziger Bridge in September 2005. The 40-year-old with the mental development of a 6-year-old suffered seven gunshot wounds in his back, court records showed.

Five ex-New Orleans police officers pleaded guilty in April to various charges in connection with the killings on the bridge. Four other people were seriously injured in the incident.

Danziger Bridge GETTY IMAGES

The victims of the bridge incident, all black and unarmed, were trying to survive the hurricane's wake when a group of officers, believing they were racing to the scene of a police shootout, barreled toward them in a commandeered rental truck.

In the other incidents, Robair was beaten by police and later died, the TV station reported. Glover was fatally shot by a police officer, who was later acquitted of wrongdoing. Another officer was found guilty of setting his body on fire, it said. REUTERS

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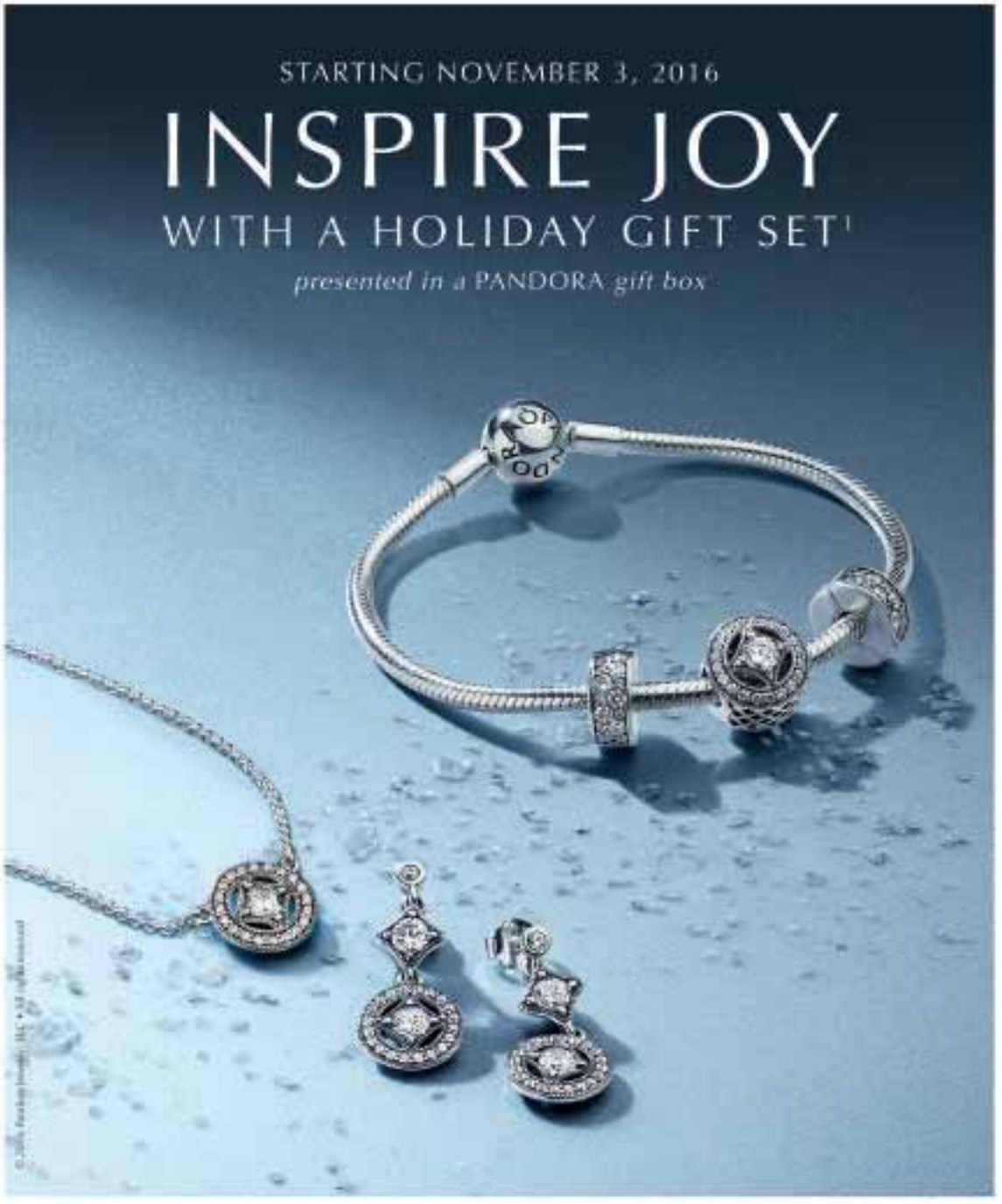

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IMF's Lagarde guilty, but not punished, in French negligence trial

The Washington-based International Monetary Fund said its executive board was meeting on Monday to consider the verdict's implications.

IMF chief Christine Lagarde GETTY IMAGES

French judges convicted IMF chief Christine Lagarde on Monday of negligence for a state payout made while she served as France's finance minister in 2008, but imposed no punishment, likely improving chances that she would stay on at the Fund.

Edwin Truman, a former U.S. Treasury and Federal Reserve international official, said he would be surprised to see the IMF board change course after unwaveringly supporting her for five years as the case progressed through France's courts.

"I don't think there's a situation in which they will force her out," said Truman, now a senior fellow at the Peterson Institute for International Economics in Washington. "It's possible she could decide on her own whether the Fund might be better off without her."

A no-confidence vote would make Lagarde the second consecutive IMF leader to leave amid crisis. Her predecessor, Dominique Strauss Kahn, resigned in 2011 over a sexual assault scandal.

The French government, which controls about 4 percent of the IMF board's voting power, said it had complete confidence in Lagarde's ability to carry out her responsibilities.

Lagarde was back on the job in Washington on Monday, phoning Ukrainian President Petro Poroshenko to commend him on a decision to nationalize a troubled bank.

In Monday's ruling, the judges did not find negligence in Lagarde's decision to seek an out-of-court settlement with tycoon Bernard Tapie. But they said her failure to contest the award to him of about 400 million euros ($417 million) was negligent, and led to a misuse of public funds. REUTERS

NATO and Russia talk, but remain divided on Ukraine

NATO and Russia held more than three hours of talks on Monday, discussing ways to reduce military accidents but also underscoring their deep disagreement on the conflict in Ukraine.

Western diplomats said the fact that the NATO-Russia Council, where the Russian ambassador to the North Atlantic alliance sits with members states' envoys, had met at all was significant after an increase in Russian military deployments.

"Without talking, we cannot solve our differences," NATO Secretary-General Jens Stoltenberg said after the meeting in Brussels.

Russia has alarmed NATO by equipping its Baltic fleet with nuclear-capable missiles and stepping up Cold War-style aerial incursions to probe Western air defenses. In October, it demonstratively sent its sole aircraft carrier close to Europe's shores on its way to Syria. REUTERS

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My toenails are streaked, discolored and thickened.
The sides of my toenails dig into the skin and hurt.
I have a large bump behind my big toe (or little toe) which is always red.
I get an extremely painful "cramp" in the area of my third and fourth toes when wearing shoes.
My toes aren't straight- they are all cocked-up, bent and hurt.
I have painful calluses on the ball of my foot which keep building up.
I have corns on my toes which get thick no matter what shoe size I wear.
The bottom of my heel hurts all day, but it's worse when I step out of bed in the morning.
I have cramps in my legs which always happen when I walk the same distance.
My ankles are swollen most of the time.
My feet are always dry and scaly – sometimes they itch.
My feet just hurt all over when I stand or walk a lot.
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Why Knee And Hip Arthritis Pain Sufferers Are Flocking To This Manhattan Medical Clinic To Relieve Pain And Avoid Joint Replacement Surgery

Knee Arthritis Pain Breakthrough?

Real Doctor's Advice On The Most Advanced Medical Treatments For Knee Arthritis Pain

"The Knee Arthritis Treatment Everyone Is Talking About..."

By Matt Edgar
America's Heath Writer

NYC - Modern medicine has come a long way.

The success stories and lives saved are endless.

And now, through advanced technology and science - skilled medical doctors are helping more knee and hip arthritis pain sufferers than ever before.

In just a moment, I'm going to reveal some of these incredible arthritis pain techniques...

So you can possibly relive some or all of your pain...

Just like thousands of others already have.

I bet many of these former arthritis pain sufferers were just like *you.*

But first, I have to tell you about this - it's very important information so you can make the very best decision about relieving your arthritis pain.

It will also help you avoid costly and painful mistakes.

Ready for some great arthritis pain relief information? Ok, here we go...

The Two Arthritis Treatment Paths...

The first thing to understand, is that there are basically two treatment paths you can choose to go down when you are looking for relief to knee or hip arthritis pain.

One path is non-surgical. You do not want surgery (who does!) so you do everything you can to avoid it.

You take pain pills, do physical therapy and exercises and maybe you even changed you diet.

Nothing worked. The pain progressively got worse until you couldn't stand it anymore.

Because you did not get the proper treatment - your joints decayed past the point of no return. Now they are basically "bone on bone" and the doctor told you there is no other option. You need...

The Dreaded...

joint replacement surgery.

I will admit - some people do need joint replacement surgery.

This procedure has come a very long way in recent years.

For some, at a certain point, this is the way to go.

But - and this is a very big but... even though this procedure has improved dramatically... it is not without risk.

In fact, a $500 million verdict in a lawsuit was just awarded to patients who received faulty hip implants during hip replacement surgery.

Some of the damage being reported from the faulty hip replacements sounds horrific.

There is no doubt, joint replacement surgery should be your last resort.

But too many people think they need joint replacement surgery when you do not.

In fact, many respond extremely well to a medical treatment approach that is finally becoming much more popular.

This is...

Treatment Path #2

This treatment path is non-surgical but it probably NOT what you are thinking.

It is NOT pain pills and grueling exercises. We think it is...

Much better

It is a treatment that actually puts vital lubricating gel directly into your arthritic knee or hip joint.

This is extremely important because when you have arthritis, you lose lubricating fluid in your joints.

In other words, your joints basically "dry up."

This causes joint surfaces to rub together causing all kinds of problems including brutal PAIN.

As time goes on - the joint wears out more and more and the pain can be excruciating.

The medical procedure I am speaking about is called...

viscosupplementation. During this procedure a FDA approved gel-like medicine is placed directly into the joint space.

This allows the joint to glide freely and move much better again.

This decreases the abnormal rubbing and wear and tear and, in many cases, decreases or even eliminates pain.

Sounds Great Right?

It does But... viscosupplementation has not worked for many people.

There are two very important reasons why:

If you have knee or hip arthritis pain and want to relieve your pain without surgery - or if you have already tried viscosupplementation without good results - what you are about to discover will be extremely important...

The first reason some people did not get good results with viscosupplementation is... bluntly... this is a real medical procedure done by real medical doctors.

This is NOT a "wonder cure" sold by slick marketers.

In the real world of medicine and science, no treatments work 100% of the time or on everyone. And no good and ethical doctor would make such a claim or guarantee any results what-so-ever.

So, there are some people that will not get results with this treatment.

Reason #2

To assure the best possible results, this treatment requires expensive advanced technology and a skilled medical doctor with experience doing this procedure.

For this treatment to have the best chance to work, the lubricating gel must be placed precisely into the joint space. Thats why **"Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology"** or PATT is always used. PATT uses a special medical camera and fluorosocpic imaging to guide the procedure and make sure the gel-like medicine gets exactly where you need it.

Many doctors doing this procedure do not use this advanced digital imaging and do these procedure either under ultrasound or "blind."

No Difference?

They say there is no difference - but research shows that doctors doing joint injections without being guided by the proper imaging ***completely miss the joint space about one third of the time.***

And because treatments are so precise - most patients report they are also painless.

Now that you know the facts - would you choose a doctor who uses advanced digital imaging to guide the treatment - or one who injects you blind?

Can you see why this treatment has not worked for so many? And can you see why, with the Precision Arthritis Targeting Technology and a doctor who has already done thousands of these procedures ***- it could work for you?***

That's why so many knee and hip arthritis sufferers are flocking to a medical clinic in NYC called "NY Pain Relief MD" that focusses on helping patients relieve their knee and hip arthritis pain and get back to doing all the things they want to do - like playing golf, walking without pain, tennis and many others.

But one of the biggest successes is when patients who were told they needed joint replacement surgery cancel the surgery because they feel so much better.

They get such great results because they use advanced digital imaging (PATT) to guide their treatments, their doctors are specially trained and have performed THOUSANDS of treatments and they use multiple brands of lubricating gels (many doctors only use one they have a "relationship" with).

But that's not all - for difficult cases, they also add advanced PRP and Stem cell treatments with often wonderful results.

Every patient is unique and they have a very unique treatment plan for every single patient so you can get the best possible results in the shortest amount of time.

Here's How To Find Out If We Can Help You

If you have knee or hip arthritis pain and would like to find out if the treatments at NY Pain MD can help you - you can come in for a risk-free no-obligation screening.. During this screening you will get a chance to ask questions and find out if you are a candidate for these advanced medical treatments - and what your best options are. The screening is completely free with no further obligation.

After your screening, you will breath a big sigh or relief knowing what your options are and the best way to deal with your pain.

If you are not sure - I know exactly how you feel. Arthritis pain is brutal. And it is hard to get straight answers.

So many patients felt the same way.

They told us they had given up until they read some information just like this and they came in to see us.

Then their life changed so fast - it was incredible

Give us a call right now at 855-456-PAIN and schedule your free screening.

The worst thing that can happened is you find out this treatment is not for you.

But what if we really can help you?

What if we really can get rid of some of all your pain?

What would that be worth you?

If it is worth a couple hours of your time - give us a call.

65 Broadway Suite 1004
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(Med Dir: G Craig)

57 West 57th Street
Suite 1603
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(Med Dir: Jack Mbabuike, MD)

855-456-PAIN
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NYC PAIN MD

Why Is This Treatment In Such High Demand?

"Precision Arthritis Targeting" Technology

There are many big medical clinics in NYC. In fact, New York offers some of the best medical care in the world.

With so many great options - **why are knee arthritis sufferers flocking to NY Pain Relief MD?**

There are several reasons. The first is what we can "Precision Targeted Knee Pain Technology."

Here's what that means and why it is so important to you.

This treatment places a medical lubricating and cushioning gel directly into the arthritic knee joint. This helps the knee glide more smoothly decreasing or eliminating pain.

Precision Arthritis Targeted Technology Or PATT means that we use extremely advanced digital imaging to make sure this lubricating gel is placed precisely where it is supposed to go. This means treatments have the best chance for success.

Doing this procedure without this advanced technology often leads to misplaced lubricating gel and failure.

Another secret to success is using multiple treatments to maximize pain relief and healing. NY Pain MD uses multiple brands of lubricating gels and also offers stem cell therapy and platelet rich plasma (PRP). PRP is being used by top professional athletes in an attempt to heal injuries faster. The combination of these treatments can often get incredible results when other treatments have failed.

While many clinics only offer one of these treatments - NY Pain Relief Md offers them all under one roof for maximum results and convenience.

And just as important is the experience of NY Pain MD Relief doctors. NY Pain Relief MD doctors are experts at this procedure and have successfully done thousands.

Amid Middle East gloom, Christmas brings some cheer in Bethlehem

Israeli-Palestinian violence has driven tourists away in the past, especially during the 2000-2005 Palestinian uprising when Bethlehem was a particularly lonely place.

This Christmas, for once, Bethlehem really can boast again that there is no room at the inn, as relative calm in the Israeli-occupied West Bank brings pilgrims and tourists flocking to the town of Jesus' birth.

Elias Al-Arja of the Bethlehem hoteliers' association said the troubles of the surrounding region had boosted numbers in the biblical Holy Land, and bookings were up on last year.

Tourism is a major source of revenue for the Palestinian economy — and provides livelihoods for about 5,000 families in Bethlehem, which has some 5,000 rooms in 46 hotels.

"Hopefully all will go well, and there's full occupancy in all Bethlehem hotels on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of December," Arja said.

While the security situation is more relaxed now, Israeli roadblocks and a 20-foot Israeli-built concrete separation barrier snaking through the landscape are still part of the Bethlehem vista.

Palestinian Tourism Minister Rula Ma'ayah said 2.3 million tourists have visited the Palestinian territories this year, slightly more than last.

The main attractions in Bethlehem are the fourth-century Church of the Nativity, built over a grotto where Christian tradition says Jesus was born, and the Christmas tree in Manger Square, where choirs sing carols during the holiday.

People take pictures of a Christmas tree at the Manger Square near the Church of the Nativity in the biblical West Bank town of Bethlehem. GETTY IMAGES

The church, on UNESCO's list of endangered World Heritage sites, is currently undergoing its first comprehensive renovation since it was completed 1,700 years ago.

On Christmas Eve, the acting Latin patriarch of Jerusalem will lead an annual procession to Bethlehem and then celebrate Midnight Mass in the church.

> *"Hopefully all will go well, and there's full occupancy in all Bethlehem hotels on the 23rd, 24th and 25th of December."*
> Arja

Many of the pilgrims' Holy Land itineraries include nearby Jerusalem and Jesus's boyhood town of Nazareth in the Galilee, now the largest Arab city in Israel.

Checking into her hotel, Evana, a tourist from Poland, summed it up: "Very nice place, very historical — and we came to see everything: Jerusalem, Nazareth, Bethlehem." REUTERS

BRIEF

Three wounded in shooting near Zurich Islamic center

Three people were wounded in a shooting near an Islamic center in central Zurich on Monday, police said.

Swiss media said a suspect was on the run after the incident near the main train station in Switzerland's financial capital.

It was not immediately clear whether the Islamic center or any of the other businesses registered buildings nearby, were the target of the attack, or what any motive might have been.

People at the scene told Reuters they prayed at the center, which was used as a mosque, often by Somalis.

Zurich police confirmed people had been wounded in the incident on Zurich's Eisgasse, but gave no more details. A police official was expected to make a statement.

Police had sealed off the block. Roughly 20 police officers were present and an ambulance had driven away, a Reuters witness said. There was no word on the condition of the wounded.

The center is registered as an association enabling Muslims to practice their religion, particularly through instruction on Islamic beliefs and teachings. REUTERS

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Camila Cabello leaves Fifth Harmony

You would think performing with a group of your peers might make the pressures of the fast-paced, competitive music industry easier to deal with. But apparently the opposite is true given that so many pop bands have a hard time sticking together. Last year, Zayn Malik left the hugely popular One Direction. And now their female counterparts, Fifth Harmony, are facing a similar plight. On Monday, the group announced that after four and a half years together, Camila Cabello has left the group. According to their statement, Camila's reps gave the notice. Does this mean there is some behind-the-scenes drama? Probably. At least Fourth Harmony has a similar ring to it.

Katie Holmes and Jamie Foxx do Cabo

Jamie Foxx and Katie Holmes might be the most elusive couple in Hollywood. We have a better chance of finding Kim Kardashian's robbers than we do getting a decent picture of them together. But we never stop watching and listening, hoping to get a scrap of info that confirms the relationship that blindsided us all.

We got lucky this weekend: US Weekly reports Foxx and Holmes took a private jet to Cabo San Lucas, Mexico, to celebrate her 38th birthday Friday. They stayed in a remote suite at the Las Ventanas al Paraiso and even had a personal butler during their stay. Discretion was of paramount importance so the couple entered via a separate entrance. They returned to the States the following day and presumably got back to pretending not to know each other. Holmes did post pictures with her adorable younger doppelganger, Suri Cruise. But we know a distraction when we see one, Katie.

Khloe Kardashian's boyfriend had a baby last week

Khloe Kardashian has kept things pretty low key with her new boyfriend, Tristan Thompson. And unlike other suitors who get caught up in the Kardashian web, there hasn't been a ton of press coverage about Thompson, his career (he plays for the Cleveland Cavaliers) or their relationship. All we know is that a pregnant girlfriend, Jordan Craig, was left in the dust when Khloe and Tristan made it official. Craig is the cousin of Kevin Hart's wife, Eniko Parrish. Small world. Anyway, US Weekly is now reporting that Craig quietly gave birth to a baby boy last week. While neither parent has shared pictures of their newborn son, Khloe posted a picture of her and bae. It's safe to say that she's unbothered by the new edition to Thompson's family. But then again, what's a little scandal to a Kardashian?

Mariah Carey doesn't know Ariana Grande or Demi Lovato

Mariah Carey is known to be a diva, a shady one at that. She completely transformed the meaning of the phrase: "I don't know her." After using it in reference to Jennifer Lopez years ago, it became MiMi's calling card. So when Andy Cohen invited Mariah to "Watch What Happens Live," they played a game of Do You Know Her? and there were some causalities. She still doesn't know J. Lo, and doesn't know Ariana Grande either. Cohen also asked Mariah about Demi Lovato's tweet over the summer where she accused Mariah of being "nasty" to J. Lo. She replied, "I don't know her either. So I wouldn't say anything to her. She should come up, introduce herself to me say 'Here's my opinion. What do you think about it?' That's how you handle s—." And just like that, Demi joined the rest of them in the land of the unknown.

ALL PHOTOS GETTY IMAGES

the word

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Paris Jackson gives Macaulay Culkin a pedicure

We can imagine that being Michael Jackson's daughter has supplied Paris Jackson with some strange stories. Not only was her late father the King of Pop, he had a private amusement park at his home and liked to climb trees even as an adult. If you have your pick of who to talk to at a dinner party, Paris should have some really amazing material for a round of Two Truths and a Lie. For example, "I painted the toes of the kid from 'Home Alone'" is a truth. In a photo posted on the 18-year-old's Instagram account over the weekend, Paris is seen putting red polish on now-36-year-old Macaulay Culkin's toenails. He wasn't just stopping by for a salon appointment — Culkin was close friends with Michael Jackson and is Paris' godfather. In the picture's caption, Paris calls her godfather a "hipster." But he's not too low-maintenance for a pedi.

Snooki dishes on what to expect from 'The New Celebrity Apprentice'

The "Jersey Shore" star even hints at what new boss Arnold's tagline might be.

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The new year kicks off with "The New Celebrity Apprentice"on NBC. With "The Donald" in the Oval Office (and fired from the series in 2015, anyway), there's a new boss in the boardroom: action hero and former California governor Arnold Schwarzenegger.

On the show, 16 celebrities will compete for the title of Celebrity Apprentice and $250,000 for a charity of their choice. Among the contestants is Nicole "Snooki" Polizzi, best known for her hard-partying time on the hit MTV reality series "Jersey Shore."

When asked if she was a fan of "The Apprentice," she reveals she'd never watched it before.

"When I got approached to do the show, I had to do my homework," Polizzi tells us. "I watched the previous season and it terrified me. I wasn't sure if this was the show for me, but I'm always down to test myself. The fact that Arnold was the host — I couldn't say no to that."

ART STREIBER, NBC

Schwarzenegger undoubtedly has some pretty big shoes to fill. Whether you liked him or not, Trump was iconic as the original "Apprentice" host.

"Seeing it first-hand, Arnold does things a little different that the viewers are going to like," Polizzi adds. And what about Trump's famous "You're fired!" tagline? Will Arnold say something unique, like "Hasta la vista," maybe?

Polizzi says she can't disclose what the new tagline will be, but notes that it's something very "Arnoldish."

So what is the "Jersey Shore" star up to these days? Turns out, life is pretty chill. The mother of two admits that when she's not working, she enjoys kicking back with her family.

"Any time I have to spend with my kids, that's what I do. We have movie nights — we get popcorn and watch different movies together," she says.

If Polizzi wins "The New Celebrity Apprentice," her prize money will be donated to the North Shore Animal League America.

"I went to school to be a vet tech. Animals are my life," she says. "[The League] supports no-kill shelters and helps find homes for the animals — making sure they're loved."

"The New Celebrity Apprentice" premieres on Monday, Jan. 2, on NBC at 8 p.m.

ALL PHOTOS GLAMOUR SHOTS OF STATEN ISLAND

Taron Egerton loves him some Bowie

Taron Egerton voices a gorilla whose father is unhappy that he wants to be star crooner in "Sing," in theaters Wednesday. ILLUMINATION ENTERTAINMENT, UNIVERSAL PICTURES

The "Kingsman" actor talks about playing a crooning gorilla in "Sing."

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In his first leading role, in 2014's "Kingsman," Taron Egerton played a rough English hooligan-turned-suave and dashing spy. In this year's "Sing," an animated musical about a koala (Matthew McConaughey) who tries to save his failing theater by hosting a singing contest, the English actor, 27, plays a reluctant English hooligan (and gorilla) who dreams of becoming a singer instead of following in his crooked father's footsteps. In 2017, Egerton will appear in the "Kingsman" sequel, which stars Julianne Moore as a villain, a turn that Egerton claims will leave all of us beguiled.

Your character in "Sing" performs a Zombies song. I was in a theater full of children, and I was easily the most excited for the Zombies. Are you a Zombies fan?
Oh, that's wonderful. And yeah, as much as anyone is. I mean, I don't own their stuff on vinyl or anything.

GETTY IMAGES

Did you have a say in what songs you got to sing?
No, no. I think the song choices were all pretty much set up before they even auditioned us. I didn't get any say in the songs I sang.

Well, if you could pick any song in the world to do, what song would you want?
Oh, man, I don't know. I love the songs I sing in the movie. They're all so wonderful. But I'm a huge David Bowie fan, so maybe something by Bowie would've been great. Maybe one of his more mainstream popular tracks, like "Heroes" or something. But the songs in "Sing" are all perfect, just great choices for the character.

Now that you mentioned Bowie I'm thinking about an animated animal singing David Bowie.
I think it would've been perfectly possible that we could've had a David Bowie song in there, and I would've loved to sing it. David's estate would've been — look at me, calling him "David" as if I knew him — but I think a lot of time was spent finding the perfect songs to go with the characters, and none of his songs fit.

There is "Under Pressure," which is kind of a Bowie song. I want there to be a Bowie and Iggy Pop duet in the sequel. That would be awesome.
Yeah, that'd be cool. I don't mind saying that I would love a "Sing 2." Who knows what'll happen in the future? This one needs to make money. We need to make this one a hit, man.

Looking to another "Kingsman"

You have the second "Kingsman" coming up, and you get to go face-to-face with Julianne Moore.
Yeah, just when you think we can't top the great villain from the first one [Samuel L. Jackson], we get someone like Julianne. She's so, so great in the movie. She's terr-i-fying. Such a sweet lady, and it was really, really great fun to spend time with her. I mean she's just [laughs] horrible in the film, in the best possible way.

We don't get to see her be truly wicked very often. Did you get to fight her? Not many people can say they got to have a fistfight with Julianne Moore.
I don't want to give it away, but she doesn't do much of her own fighting. She has people who do that for her.

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TINA CHADHA
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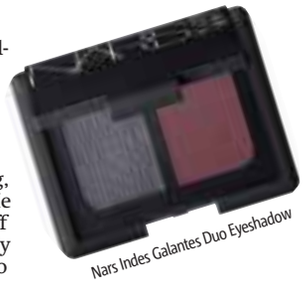
Everyone expects a bold red lip for holiday festivities. But this year, let's make eyes the focus.

"The holidays are a good excuse for people to wear shimmery eyeshadow and be a little more blinging," says Nars makeup stylist Niko Lopez, part of the backstage team that's created Fashion Week looks for designers Marc Jacobs, Alexander Wang, Rodarte and others. He tells us how to pull off the perfect party-ready sultry eye, and then to soften it for a casual soiree at home.

Niko Lopez works his magic backstage at Fashion Week. GAVIN O'NEILL



Nars Indes Galantes Duo Eyeshadow

Tone things down for a party at home

If you're hosting a holiday party at your house and you don't want a full-on glam look, Lopez says to tweak the smoky-eye look to the right. Start by prepping the eyes with a little bit of primer or concealer. Line the top of the lash line with a lighter liner, like Nars Witching Hour.

"It's not a full-on black; it's an iridescent charcoal, so it's not intimidating for someone who doesn't wear a lot of makeup," he says. Next, smudge it and add a tiny bit to the lower lash line. Then curl the lashes and add mascara. "Keep it just at that, he says. "You have a little bit of that smoldered effect and focus on the eyes without having all the shadows and textures that look too done up."

With this look he says you can wear a red, berry or neutral lip.

For products, head to NARS Prince Street Boutique (646-356-0423)
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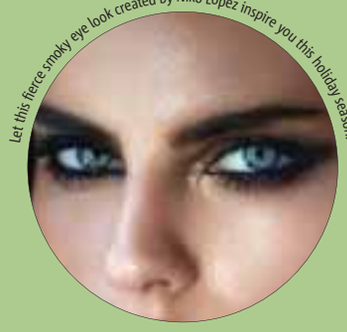

Let this fierce smoky eye look created by Niko Lopez inspire you this holiday season.

Wow them with a smoky eye

The key to a flawless smoky eye is to "blend, blend, blend," stresses Lopez. "I notice when people do a smoky eye it looks blunt on the arch of the eye around the crease." The expert shows us how to avoid this by taking us through his process.

1 Create a blank canvas. "Clear up uneven skintone on the eyelid by applying a little bit of a concealer with a creamy base to it, and set it with powder," says Lopez. But if you have oily lids, he says ditch the concealer for a primer like Nars Pro-Prime Smudge Proof Eyeshadow Base. "That's going to keep your eyeshadow on all day and ensure that it's not going to crease throughout the night."

2 Next, apply a soft neutral shade on the eyelids. Lopez recommends an ash brown with a little gold in it for a slight pop. "Sweep the shadow across the crease of the eye, blending with a fluffy brush," he says.

3 Now for the fun. Add a shimmery shadow across the lid from inner corner to outer corner, blending up to the crease, says Lopez. This season, the makeup artist is loving the charcoal shimmery gray shadow in the new Nars Sarah Moon Eyeshadow palette, Indes Galantes.

4 For a fierce look, Lopez applies a kohl liner (Nars Witching Hour) on the waterline (the inner rim of the eye), as well as on the top and bottom lash line. "Doing the waterline is what's really going to give you that smoldered look," he says, adding, "If someone wants a smoky eye, but not too intense, then I would leave the waterline out."

5 Finish up by curling the lashes and adding two or three coats of mascara.

6 To complete the look, says Lopez, apply a nude blush on the apples of the cheeks and pair with a nude lip.

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10 Hottest toys of 2016

This year's must-haves include coding games, lifelike pups, a Nintendo reboot and even hatching creatures. **SARA FEINSTEIN**

The one person you do not want to disappoint during the holidays is the littlest one in your life. But tots can also be the easiest to please. To avoid potential tears, temper tantrums and looks that pronounce you a failure, we hit up Toys "R" Us spokeswoman Candace Disler to help us win Christmas.

Furbie Connect

Furbie is back and revamped for 2016. The new high-tech furry critter syncs with the Furbie Connect World app, allowing kids to connect with virtual friends, watch videos together and even raise virtual Furblings. When it's time for Furbie to go to sleep, all you have to do is put on the sleep mask and say good night. **$99.99**

Power Wheels Wild Thing

This battery-powered vehicle comes in both pink and orange, with two joystick steering controls that allow riders to shift forward, into reverse and even spin 360 degrees. "It's for the adventure seeking kid — boy or girl — and the adults living vicariously through them," says Disler. **$279.99**

Nerf N-Strike Elite Terrascout Remote Control Drone Blaster

"This is every kid who has a sibling's dream," says Disler. Unlike the standard hand controlled Nerf gun, this new high-tech version allows users to maneuver the remote-control blaster, record their battles and watch through the LCD screen to view out-of-sight targets. "I know if I had this as a kid I would have driven it into my brother's room, watched it from the controller on my bed and blasted him with these Nerf darts," says Disler. **$249.99**

Nintendo NES Classic Edition

Perhaps one of the most nostalgic gaming consoles ever, the Nintendo Entertainment System is back in a miniaturized version. Compatible with the Virtual Console games on the Wii U system, the NES also comes preloaded with 30 classic games, including "The Legend of Zelda," "Super Mario Bros. 3" and "Mega Man 2." **$59.99**

Fisher-Price Think & Learn Code-a-Pillar

"This year we're definitely seeing that customers, parents and gift-givers alike are really maximizing their play value by choosing toys that are both fun, but also offer a learning aspect as well," says Disler. Furthering the spirit of education, this interactive toy challenges children to configure the critter in any way they choose and watch as different combinations send the toy in various directions. **$42.99**

Paw Patrol Zoomer Marshall

This interactive pup walks, talks, spins and even follows you around like a real puppy. When it's time for more adventure, kids can shift the dalmatian into rescue mode to save someone from a fire with the water cannon launcher, or try any other of the pup's more than 80 interactive missions and tricks. **$69.99**

SelfieMic Music Set

"Selfies are in and it doesn't really seem like they're going to be leaving anytime soon," says Disler. In this new twist on karaoke, kids can attach their phone to the selfie stick to record music videos of their performances, and easily share them with family and friends on social media. **$17.99**

Little Live Pets Snuggles My Dream Puppy

For the no-mess parents who aren't ready to commit to an actual pet, Snuggles is the perfect alternative. The fluffy and interactive puppy moves, feels and responds just like a real dog. There's even an adoption certificate to make Snuggles an official part of your family. **$59.99**

Hatchimals

With proper nurturing, these magical creatures hatch right out of their shell and come to life. Kids can raise the animal through three stages — from baby, to toddler, to kid — and watch as they grow up to talk, dance, play games and even repeat after you in their own voice. **$69.99**

Kano Build Your Own Computer Kit

With illustrated step-by-step instructions, this kit for those ages 6 and up teaches kids how to build a real working computer which they can watch come to life. The series of easy-to-use apps also allows them to make art, music and code games like Pong and Minecraft, all while learning the fundamental programing languages like Java script and Python. **$149.99**

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Your holiday hangover helper

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KATE MOONEY
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It's that time of year — holiday parties with open bars, long, wine-heavy dinners with family, raucous nights out on the town with friends. The common denominator? Booze, and lots of it. It's a time to let loose, but you don't want to waste your hard-earned vacation days worshipping the porcelain goddess (and that will be the first and last hangover-related euphemism in this article, we promise).

We all wish we could drink to our heart's content without any consequences, but that's just not the way it works.

Dr. George F. Koob, the director of the National Institute of Alcohol Abuse and Alcoholism breaks it down: "'There's no free ride in the brain; if something makes you feel good, it's going to make you feel lousy later when it wears off."

And while we'd love a magic bullet, "there's no one particular [hangover] cure, per se," according to Dr. Stephanie Zeszutek, an ob-gyn and professor at Touro College of Osteopathic Medicine. "I like to say 'management' instead of cure; [treating a hangover] is really managing your dehydration, managing your electrolyte imbalance," she explains.

Koob's general advice: moderation, pacing yourself and knowing your limits.

While that all sounds like common sense — easier said than done. Here are some practical tips to help prevent those difficult mornings after; and if you do slip up, to help you recover.

The night of

Hydration, hydration, hydration. Koob recommends drinking plenty of water alongside your alcoholic beverages, or as "drink spacers" in between cocktails — which will also help you with pacing. "By and large, the most overwhelming factor is how much alcohol you take over a short period of time," he says.

Be sure not to drink on an empty stomach, which can increase the rate of intoxication. Nutritionist Keri Gans, author of "The Small Change Diet," recommends starting off the night with a well-balanced meal of protein, healthy fat and fiber, which will help slow down your body's absorption of alcohol.

The morning after

Sorry, but "the hair of the dog" will not help you. "A hangover is basically a mini withdrawal syndrome," Koob explains. In the short term, that bloody mary at brunch might give you the illusion of feeling better — by getting you temporarily drunk again — but it will only make your hangover worse later in the day.

For a headache

Water, first and foremost, says Koob, followed by rest.

Coffee can help relieve a headache; but know that caffeine, like alcohol, is also a diuretic. Make sure to match your cup of joe with ample water to prevent further dehydration, Gans advises.

To replenish lost electrolytes, Gans names coconut water, Pedialyte and sports drinks, such as Gatorade. To reduce the headache, Dr. Shanna Levine, a primary care physician at Mount Sinai Health Systems suggests taking 400-600 milligrams of Ibuprofen or another nonsteroid anti-inflammatory medication.

For nausea

Zeszutek recommends freezing ice pops with low-acidic fruit juice (think, apple, carrot, or aloe vera, as opposed to high-citrus orange or grapefruit, which could trigger nausea) as a gentle way to take in fluids and electrolytes. Sipping a cool, refreshing smoothie made with banana (high in potassium), apple and yogurt won't shock your system.

On the savory side, Gans suggests chicken soup, which goes down easy while replenishing sodium levels. Or, if you're feeling OK enough to venture into the terrain of solid foods, keep it bland and simple: eggs (gentle on the stomach) with whole-grain toast (providing an energizing carb boost).

When it comes to mobile intravenous fluid replacement treatments, offered via companies like the Hangover Club, which will send a nurse to hook you up to an electrolyte-rich drip at your home, Levine says they may work as a fast track to hydrating you — if you can afford them (the Hangover Club's in-house treatments start at $199). "Adequate oral intake of calories or fluids is sufficient to treat most hangovers," she says.

If your hangover lasts longer than 12 to 24 hours — if you find yourself on day two of discomfort and vomiting — you may need to seek medical attention, says Zeszutek.

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New Jersey Devils workout fends off winter weight

Break a sweat; then enjoy holiday sweets.

NIKKI M. MASCALI
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Devils' strength and conditioning coach Joe Lorincz (second from left) demonstrates his new workout regime. TOM ROARTY

One tester attempts the "sled march" portion of the strength circuit. TOM ROARTY

If getting fit is one of your New Year's resolutions or you're preparing to work off Grandma's holiday cookies, the New Jersey Devils have created a workout bound to kick your butt into gear.

The 30-minute "One Jersey Workout" is a high-intensity regimen that combines strength and cardio training. It was developed by the hockey team's strength and conditioning coach, Joe Lorincz. He and assistant coach Jamie Rodriguez unveiled the plan inside the Devils' new fitness room at the Prudential Center in Newark earlier this week.

"It's designed for making people miserable," Rodriguez said half-jokingly before leading members of the media through the rigorous workout.

While testers were able to use the team's state-of-the-art equipment, many parts of the routine can easily be adapted to fit an individual's skill level and home gear if a trip to the gym isn't possible.

The workout starts with an eight-minute warmup that includes walking knee hugs, hamstring stretches, lunges and skipping. It's followed by a power circuit of box jumps and medicine-ball side throws and standing slams.

The final portion is a strength circuit that incorporates four rounds of split squats, pushups, sled marches, suitcase farmers — in which you carry a kettle bell in one hand as you would a suitcase — rowing and more. Just in case that wasn't enough for you.

The staff recommends doing the routine two to three times a week. The workout will be made available on the Devils' website and social media.

"It's never too late to start, and I enjoy this because it's kind of like a warm aerobic workout, and it keeps me from getting bored," Lorincz told us.

But is warm aerobics better than a warm, freshly baked holiday treat? Guess that's up to you!

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Knicks return from West Coast trip scratching head, pointing fingers

Many expected New York would fare better during this recent road trip.

TONY WILLIAMS
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sports@metro.us

The Knicks clearly have lots of talent, but growing pains are still visible as the team learns to work together and win. GETTY IMAGES

The Knicks have come home from a West Coast road trip that was an up and down ride. And while Carmelo Anthony deemed prior to Saturday night's tilt in his original NBA home of Denver that it was must-win, his squad fell short with a lackluster affair.

It's hard to imagine the 27th contest of an 82-game campaign to be bigger than what Anthony urged, but it's understandable that the franchise leader wants his team to match his urgency. Too bad for Anthony that it was the third such game in a row where his team failed to come out of the gate fast. Two of the three were against teams that are considered less-than, the Phoenix Suns (8-19) and the Nuggets (11-16). The other game that was sandwiched in between was against the Golden State Warriors — a loss that was expected, especially with stars like Anthony and Derrick Rose receiving the night off by head coach Jeff Hornacek.

The losses to both the Suns (113-111 in overtime) and Nuggets (127-114) might've been particularly alarming to Anthony, who has his best chance of reaching the postseason in four years — especially in Phoenix where the Knicks (14-13) fell behind by 14 points early before fighting back late in the fourth quarter, only to squander the momentum and blow it in overtime.

Anthony, who wasn't made available to the local media following Monday's practice, criticized his team for "playing with a lack of effort" after the Denver defeat. Teammate Kristaps Porzingis wasn't about to go that route, but did put some of the onus on him — after all, the Latvian sensation is also considered a co-franchise player for the Knicks and will one day seize sole grip of the team once Anthony no longer dons the orange and blue.

Porzingis noted that he always looks in the mirror first before trying to assess the team's fortunes. And he reasoned that he, too, didn't play well as the trip neared conclusion. Porzingis has totaled 30 points in his past two games — including an eight-point performance in Golden State. The Warriors game featured a 31-percent shooting effort, as he was hounded all night by Draymond Green, while the game in Denver produced a 37-percent performance.

"It's more about me missing shots and not being in rhythm," Porzingis said when recalling his personal and team's mini-slump. "I've gotta relax my mind, because it can be a chain reaction. I just gotta slow it down. The game will come to me. Sometimes I get off to bad starts, but I know I gotta be patient."

Some better news is the prospect that point guard Derrick Rose (back) went through a full practice today. He's missed the past three games due to back spasms, so he'll definitely give the team a spark — and at the same time strengthen the Knicks' bench because that means super-sub Brandon Jennings will return to his sixth-man role.

"Of course it's great if we get somebody like Derrick back," Porzingis reasoned. "But he's important for the long haul, so we gotta make sure he gets healthy first."

The Knicks face two teams this week at home who aren't among the elites in Indiana (14-14) and the Orlando Magic (12-17), before hosting the Boston Celtics (15-12) on Christmas Day, so this week could be the start of a nice stretch for a team in sudden need of turning the tide.

Bottom-dwelling Islanders' issues start with lackluster special teams

Jack Capuano knows the New York Islanders' special teams are a significant weakness.

It's how to repair those units that has become a vexing issue for he and his coaching staff.

"When your special teams is at the bottom of the league and your goaltending is not kicking where it was last year, it's a recipe for a losing streak," Capuano said after the Islanders' 6-2 loss to Ottawa on Sunday night at Barclays Center.

The Islanders have lost five straight going into Tuesday night's match in Boston against the Bruins, who are third in the Atlantic Division.

> *"Our power play didn't do anything to help our cause."*
>
> Jack Capuano

Against the Senators, the specialty units once again came to the forefront. For all the wrong reasons. The Islanders were 0 for 4 on the power play, and gave up a shorthanded goal.

The Islanders rank 26th in the league with a 78.1 percent penalty kill success rate, and their 12.8 percent success rate on the power play is last in the league.

"Just look at the teams that were high in the standings at the start and look where they are now. It's all correlated," Capuano said. "We have to fix [those units]. We have options we can use but at the same time, we're trying to put skill on the ice and have the lefty-righty shots that we need. They take a lot of pride in the power play, too. Last year we were top five in the league in penalty kill, top-15 in the league power play and top-10 goaltending. That's changed this year. And we're sitting where we're sitting."

The Islanders have the worst record in the Eastern Conference at 11-14-6. Their 28 points are third fewest in the league, ahead of only Colorado and Arizona.

"It needs to be a better effort through the end of the game," Travis Hamonic said. "Right there for the taking again."

If the power play irritated Capuano, Mark Stone's game-winning power play goal at 15:03 of the second period infuriated the Islanders coach.

Stone was able to position himself in front of JF Berube, and jammed a rebound of an Erik Karlsson shot under the goaltender. On the play, Hamonic, Nick Leddy and Alan Quine were within 5 feet of Stone.

The Islanders have quite a few issues to work through. GETTY IMAGES

"It sounds like a broken record with our effort. The third goal was a big goal for them. The power play goal that they got. We had three guys versus their two at the net," Capuano said. "Lift their stick, have some battle level in [you], have some fight. That, to me, that was a big goal for them."

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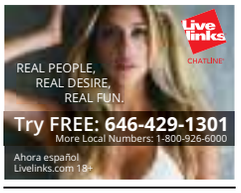

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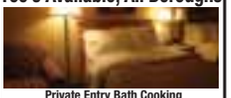

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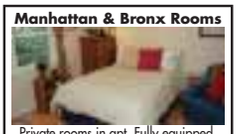

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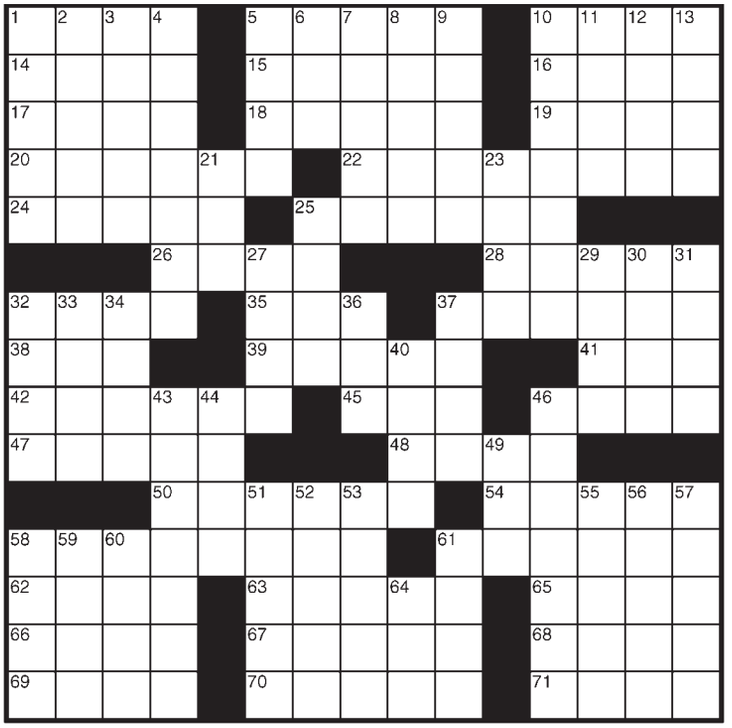
Across
1 Wheels for the fields
5 Ape
10 Pilots' sightings
14 Pirate's chest?
15 Castle or Dunne
16 Clump of hair
17 Crazy about
18 Trite
19 Ferber or Millay
20 Bow opposites
22 Grandeur
24 At present
25 Swamp critters
26 Paraphernalia
28 Marlins' city
32 "-- Up Little Susie"
35 Sloppy --
37 Crooner's tune
38 Clean water org.
39 Yawning
41 How -- things?
42 More pale
45 Harry Potter's pal
46 Weakness
47 Loggins or Rogers
48 Verne captain
50 Razzed
54 Bauxite giant
58 Fine-tuned
61 Cancan's -- Rouge
62 Name in fashion
63 Exploiting
65 Shape or form
66 Penny --
67 Talk out of
68 Anon's companion
69 Mare's nest
70 Social mores
71 Withered

Down
1 Top group (hyph.)
2 Kemo Sabe's pal
3 Marked a ballot
4 Attic function
5 Marbles
6 A Gershwin
7 Brainy club
8 Ill-chosen
9 Ma's forte
10 Piece of cutlery
11 Cartoon pig surname
12 Point -- -- return
13 Movie lead
21 PBS "Science Guy"
23 Ms. Bombeck
25 Hot rum drink
27 Cracked
29 Jai --
30 Antony or Chagall
31 -- fixe
32 Flimsy
33 Vaulted recess
34 Madeline of "Blazing Saddles"
36 It may be bent
37 Good, to Guido
40 Tadpole habitat
43 Hurts
44 Snake -- (dice throw)
46 Tomes
49 Former Chinese leader
51 Chopin opus
52 Turn back the odometer
53 Novelist -- Wharton
55 Spice tree
56 Persian Gulf sight
57 Conductor -- Previn
58 Genesis man
59 Sup well
60 Scribbles down
61 Business VIPs
64 Paleo opp.



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hard

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9		1				6		
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2					4			

metro.us/horoscopes

Aries You will come up against a roadblock if you try to take on too much or protest against someone who is in control. Focus on making positive personal changes.

Taurus Plan to do something nice for your peers. Your generosity and thoughtfulness will be appreciated. A unique gesture to help someone will bring you satisfaction.

Gemini Stick to what you know, and don't budge even if someone tries to talk you into taking part in something that isn't in your best interest. Avoid joint ventures.

Cancer Spending time at home with your family while getting things ready for end-of-year festivities will put you in a good mood. Share your thoughts and feelings.

Leo A change at home or in your workplace will turn out better than anticipated. Something you want to do for a loved one will result in an emotional reaction.

Virgo Stick to the facts when dealing with controversial matters. Your future may be at stake if you don't adhere to the rules. Industry parties are best handled diplomatically.

Libra Consider positive personal changes you can make. Knowing what you want to achieve next year will help you enjoy the festive season. A trip looks promising.

Scorpio Don't let your emotions take charge when dealing with older relatives. Do what you have to do and don't look back. Your intuition will help you make the right choice.

Sagittarius Find out what everyone else is up to before making a change that could affect others. Once you get the go-ahead, it will make your job and life easier.

Capricorn You'll intuitively know what's best for you and how to go about getting what you want. Don't hesitate when the going is good. Make your move and don't look back.

Aquarius You need to take care of incomplete financial matters. Making a donation to a charity or cause is fine, as long as you don't go into debt to help others.

Pisces Don't get too serious. Get into the spirit of the season and be grateful for what you have. Take a moment to reflect on what transpired this year. EUGENIA LAST

Yesterday's answers

N	E	C	K				P	U	B		T	O	G	S
E	X	U	R	B		B	U	R	R		E	P	E	E
A	P	R	I	L		A	C	L	U		R	A	T	A
P	O	S	S	I	B	L	E		S	U	N	L	I	T
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